

Kentucky has a “primary” seat belt law. This means drivers can be stopped and cited if anyone in the vehicle is not wearing a seatbelt.

MYTHS & FACTS ABOUT SEAT BELTS:

Myth:

I don't need a seat belt when driving at slow speeds or on short trips.

Fact:

Most crash deaths occur within 25 miles of home and at speeds of less than 40 miles per hour.

Did You Know?

Fatal injuries in unbelted occupants have occurred in vehicles traveling as slow as 12 miles per hour. An unbelted person hitting a windshield in a 40 mile-per-hour crash would feel the same force as hitting the ground after falling off a five-story building.

Myth:

If I wear a seat belt, I might get trapped in my car if it catches on fire or if it becomes submerged under water.

Fact:

Crashes involving fire or water happen in only 1/2 of one percent of all crashes. The greatest danger to vehicle occupants is from the impact of the crash itself.

Did You Know?

Seat belt wearers are more likely to be uninjured and conscious after a crash, allowing them to get out of a vehicle quickly.

Myth:

If I don't wear a seat belt I'm not affecting anyone but myself. If I'm injured or die in a crash from not wearing a seat belt, that's my business!

Fact:

Deaths and injuries that result from non-use of seat belts cost everyone in the form of higher insurance premiums, medical costs, property damage and loss of productivity. Plus, the emotional cost to victims' families is too great to measure.

Did You Know?

Kentuckians alone pay over \$3 billion each year for car crash victims. Citizens not involved in crashes pay three-fourths of that cost.

Myth:

I don't need to wear a seat belt – my vehicle has air bags.

Fact:

Air bags are designed to work in combination with seat belts, providing supplemental protection during certain types of crashes.

Did You Know?

Air bags inflate at a speed of over 100 miles per hour. An unrestrained or improperly restrained occupant can be seriously injured or killed by the force of an activated air bag.

Myth:

I might be saved if I'm thrown clear of the crash.

Fact:

Being thrown to safety in a crash is almost impossible. Your best bet is to be securely held in by your seat belt.

Did You Know?

You are 25 times more likely to be killed in a crash when thrown from a vehicle. You may be thrown through the windshield and into another vehicle or fixed object, scraped along the pavement or even crushed by your own vehicle.

KENTUCKY'S LAW

Seat Belts [KRS 189.125(6)]

A person shall not operate a motor vehicle manufactured after 1981 on the public roadways of this state unless the driver and all passengers are wearing a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt.

Fine for violation:

Beginning January 1, 2007, any person who violates the provisions of Kentucky's seat belt law shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$25.00. Through December 31, 2006, a courtesy warning period will be in effect for violations.

Child Restraints [KRS 189.125(3)]

Any driver of a motor vehicle, when transporting a child of forty (40) inches in height or less in a motor vehicle on the roadways, streets, and highways of this state, shall have the child properly secured in a child restraint system of a type meeting federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Fine for violation: \$50.00



The Correct Way to Wear a Safety Belt

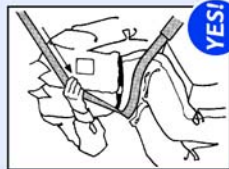
WEAR IT LOW

■ The lap portion of the safety belt should be two to four inches below the waist, snug across your hip and pelvic bones — NOT across your stomach.



WEAR IT SNUG

■ The shoulder portion should rest smoothly over your collarbone and across your chest and shoulders. Pull the belt out and let it retract to remove slack.



WEAR IT RIGHT

■ If the belt rubs against the neck, try changing the seat position or the way you sit.

■ Some vehicles have a shoulder belt adjusters which slide up or down to provide a correct, comfortable fit.



■ Safety belts should be worn over the front of the shoulder, never behind your back or under your arm.

■ If seatbelt does not fit a child properly, a booster seat may be needed.



■ Belt extenders may also be purchased.

■ Some cars feature a shoulder belt that automatically comes across your chest, but you must fasten the lap portion manually to achieve proper use.



This brochure is provided by:
The Governor's Executive
Committee for Highway Safety.



For additional information, please visit:

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
Department of Transportation Safety
<http://highwaysafety.ky.gov>
and
<http://drivesmart.ky.gov>

Governor's Highway Safety Program
<http://www.ghsp.ky.gov>

National Highway Traffic
Safety Administration
<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

Federal Highway Administration
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov>

Safe Kids Worldwide
<http://www.safekids.org>



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Buckle Up Kentucky



"WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT OUR SEATBELT LAW"